

August 2020

MEDINA SUN



See this in color at: www.medina-wa.gov

A Short History of Medina - Part II

By Former Mayor Michael Luis

The opening of the new bridge across Mercer Island in 1940 would change Medina and the Eastside forever. No longer isolated and a ferry ride away from Seattle, the Eastside was now Seattle's most convenient suburban area. For Medina, this cut both ways. It was now more convenient to get to Seattle by car, but Medina was no longer the center of the transportation network as it had been when the car ferry stopped at what is now Medina Beach Park.

With the end of ferry service the Medina Community Club took over the old ferry terminal and finally had a clubhouse for its many social events. The newly formed St. Thomas Episcopal Church began to hold services in the clubhouse, with the pool table (carefully covered) serving as the altar. The two independent school districts that served Medina were part of the big merger in 1942 that formed the Bellevue School District.

Bellevue, now the center of the action, had incorporated as a city in 1953. Clyde Hill had incorporated the same year, and now the Points communities were cut off from the rest of the county. It seemed inevitable that they would need to become incorporated. The question was whether to join an existing city, such as Bellevue or Houghton (now the south part of Kirkland) or to incorporate as independent cities.

In Medina, for a small place, things were pretty complicated. First, what is now Medina had historically been split at 24th street, with separate community clubs and schools in the north and south. Evergreen Point could have pursued incorporation on its own, as Hunts Point did. But in the end, the two areas joined forces.

Separate groups were promoting annexation to Bellevue and incorporation as an independent city. It turns out that incorporation was a lot faster: send signatures to the County Commission and get on the ballot. Annexation would have required a long process with Bellevue, and the incorporation faction got on the ballot first, in July, 1955, and

won by a vote of 225 to 126. Hunts Point incorporated at the same time, but it took Yarrow Point until 1959 to get a successful incorporation vote.

Medina adopted the council-manager form of government, which was popular during that time. The first order of businesses, as with any new city, was planning and zoning. The city adopted a comprehensive plan and zoning ordinance that remains almost unchanged to this day in its fundamental features. The city acquired the clubhouse from King County and combined it with property to the north to form the beach park.

Next: The Bridge!

66 is the New 65!

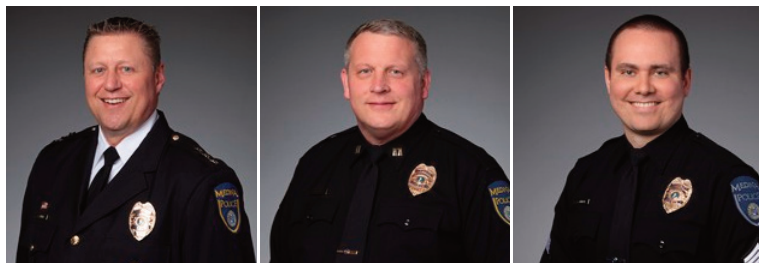
The City of Medina turns 65 in August and we had hoped to come together as a community for a big anniversary celebration set against a backdrop of summer fun, fireworks and Medina Days. But parties don't always go as planned and the year 2020 has challenged our ability to gather in traditional ways with restrictions on crowds and business impacts to our usual vendors. Do not despair, the party will go on and we look forward to getting together in 2021 to celebrate our history as a community and to reconnect with our neighbors. In the meantime, we will continue to focus on introducing city staff, and sharing interesting stories from the archives about Medina history. Stay tuned for news on special projects, updates on plans for next year and ways to get involved.

Be sure to follow the City of Medina on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter and sign up for email updates and police e-lets at www.medina-wa.gov.

Meet the Medina Police Department

The Medina Police Department consists of nine commissioned police officers (chief, captain, sergeant, and six police officers) and two professional staff. The nine commissioned officers are Chief Steve Burns, Captain Dave Scherf, Sergeant Austin Gidlof, and Police Officers James Martin, Brady Halverson, Scott Eng, Eric Anderson, Conner Bell, and Tyler Glenn. Medina is fortunate to have two professional staff – Records Office Manager Barbara Marxer and Police Administrative Specialist Sunita Hall - that provide conceal pistol licenses, fingerprinting, beach management, emergency preparedness, and evidence management. Well experienced and trained, the police officers have over 130 years of combined law enforcement experience. In addition, police officers have previous experience in Homeland Security, felony investigation units, academy instruction trainers, collision investigation, and field training officers. Most importantly, every employee has a strong commitment to providing a personal service to the community.

Command and Supervision:



Chief Steve Burns

Captain Dave Scherf

Sergeant Austin Gidlof

Chief Steve Burns brings 25 years experience with the Washington State Patrol before stepping into the Chief of Police position in Medina in September 2014. Chief Burns believes that community policing is the most effective way to be successful in Medina and Hunts Point.

"Being part of the community is more effective than being strictly law enforcers. By talking to our residents we have built trust, by being visible we have engendered confidence and by being compassionate we have fostered positive relationships. I am proud of how the department has developed over the last few years. Most of all I am proud of how our community works with us – alerting us, relaying information and being open about what is important to them."

Captain Dave Scherf started his Medina career as a police officer in 2015 and was promoted to captain at the end of 2016. He also brings 25 years with the Washington State Patrol where he worked in field operations, homeland security, and investigations. He has the ability to mobilize teams across several divisions and agencies to respond to an emerging situation. He also has experience of managing a multifunctional team and commands the daily operations at Medina, with efficiency and diplomacy.

Sergeant Austin Gidlof supervises six police officers and provides after-hour command. He has spent his entire law enforcement career in Medina and brings a high level of enthusiasm, dedication, and professionalism to the community.

Police Officers & Professional Staff:

There are six officers in the department coming from a variety of backgrounds, including; Officers James Martin, Brady Halverson, Scott Eng, Eric Anderson, Connor Bell and Tyler Glenn.

Police Office Manager Barbara Marxer was hired in July 2017 and has taken on the responsibility as the department Office Manager. Police Administrative Specialist Sunita Hall started with the City of Medina as the Deputy City Clerk in July 2015 before moving to the police department in September 2018, where some of her responsibilities are evidence, budget, policy review, and emergency preparedness.

Contacts:

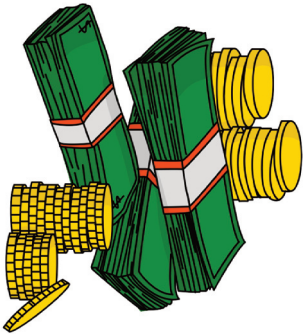
City of Medina City Hall:	501 Evergreen Point Road Medina, WA 98039
City Hall Phone:	425-233-6400
City Hall Fax:	425-451-8197
City Hall Hours:	7:30 am - 4:00 pm
Police Department:	
Non-Emergency:	425-233-6420
After office hours:	911
Emergency:	911
Mayor:	Jessica Rossman
City Council Members:	Cynthia Adkins, Roger Frey, Jennifer Garone, Harini Gokul, Alex Morcos, Bob Zook
City Manager:	Michael Sauerwein
Police Chief:	Steve Burns
City Clerk:	Aimee Kellerman
Director of Development Services:	Steve Wilcox
Director of Public Works:	Ryan Osada
Director of Finance:	Julie Ketter
Website:	www.medina-wa.gov

The City’s budgeting process for 2021 will be launched at the September 14th Council meeting!

Residents are encouraged to attend to learn more:

- How does the City decide its spending priorities?
- What do you want to see in your City’s budget? The Council will be having a public hearing that evening to gather input from the community.

Let your voice be heard!



Can We Talk Swimming Pools?



Most people do not realize that storm drains flow directly into local creeks and lakes without any type of wastewater treatment. That’s why pools, spas, and fountains should never be drained into the gutter or storm drain. Pool water can contain copper, chlorine, sediments, and other contaminants that harm plants and animals living in the local waters. Here are a couple of rules about swimming pool water: (please refer to Medina Municipal Code 13.06)

1. Drain your swimming pool or spa only after you have tested the water to be free of chlorine. Dechlorinated swimming pool discharges limited to a concentration of 0.1 ppm or less, pH-adjusted if necessary, and in volumes and velocities controlled to prevent re-suspension of sediments in the stormwater system.

2. Whenever possible, drain your swimming pool or spa into a sanitary sewer system. Locate your sanitary sewer cleanout for your house and run your hose from the pool to there. Do not attempt to open or remove a sewer manhole cover - that is dangerous and is not recommended!

If the above options are not plausible for any reason, feel free to contact Ryan Osada, Public Works Director rosada@medina-wa.gov, to help you locate a good place to drain your water. Thank you!

Sign Up For Medina Police E-Lerts

In May 2019, the Medina Police Department transitioned to a new system to send out E-Lerts. If you have not received any E-Lerts over the last year, you may not have signed up or transferred to the new system. E-Lerts are a great way to stay informed and receive information directly from Medina Police Department.

If you would like to receive E-Lerts, you are encouraged to sign up by following the instructions below:

Click on the Police page of the City’s website: <https://www.medina-wa.gov/police>

Once on the Police page, select E-Lert Registration, and follow the instructions to register

Once you have registered, you will receive E-Lert notifications to your email address.

Please feel free to contact us at (425) 233-6420 with any questions.